



Trail Blazer

METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1980

ANNUAL AWARDS

The 1979 awards are now open for nominations. This is your chance to nominate the persons you feel deserving of these outstanding awards, which will be presented at the M.H.A. Dinner Dance on February 16.

The first award is the Past President's Award, which will be awarded to the member who did the most for M.H.A. in 1979.

The second award, the President's Cup (or Siblay Cup), is for the Horseman of the Year. This award is presented by the East Bay Regional Parks to the person who has done the most for horsemen.

When you get the "green card", which is your nominating ballot, be sure to send it in. Don't let those people who have done so much for M.H.A. and the local horsemen be overlooked.

M.H.A. ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

The M.H.A. social event of the year will be held at the Sequoia Country Club on Saturday, February 16. There will be a really good band, cocktails, dinner (steak), and dancing.

Cocktails - 7:00 p.m.

Dinner - 8:00 p.m.

Presentation of Awards

Price - \$20 per person.

Reservations to either:

Pat Walsh	or	Anita Thompson
5660 Fernhoff		14170 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland 94619		Oakland 94619
(Ph. 530-0874)		(Ph. 635-8430)

1980 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 16 - Western Schooling Show, Sylvester Brooks, Manager (Rain-date March 23)
- March 30 - M.H.A. Combined Schooling Show, Judi Bank, Manager
- April 20 - English Schooling Show, Helmut Hungerland, Manager, (Rain-date April 27)
- May 4 - Claud Brandon Trail Ride, Inez Fort, Manager
- June 8 - Sidney Chown Trail Ride, Manager to be Announced
- July 20 - Western Gold Cup, Jacqui Dixon, Manager
- July 26&27 - Dressage Show (C.D.S. Recognized), Manager to be Announced
- August 1 - Junior Overnight, M.H.A. Juniors
- August 8,9,10 - N.A.T.R.C. Trail Ride, Sylvia Brooks, Manager
- September 27&28 - Oakland Horse Trials, Melvin Cox, Manager
- October 5 - English Gold Cup, Manager to be Announced
- October 19 - Charlie Back Trail Ride, M.H.A. Juniors and Barbara Raupe, Managers.

JUNIORS UNITE!

Come to the first Junior meeting of the 1980's. This is your chance to show the senior members of M.H.A. what you want to do during the coming year. The meeting will be held at the M.H.A. Club House on January 27 at 7:00 p.m. Anyone needing a ride to the meeting or more information can contact Barbara Raupe at 533-5404 between 7 and 9 Monday through Friday.



FROM THE EDITORS

Your new editors for the Trail Blazer are Carol Schneider and Margaret Vingo, and we are very excited about our new jobs for M.H.A. Our goals for 1980 are to introduce you to one another by highlighting some individuals and/or their horses each month so that you will know your fellow members on the trail or when you meet them in the arena.

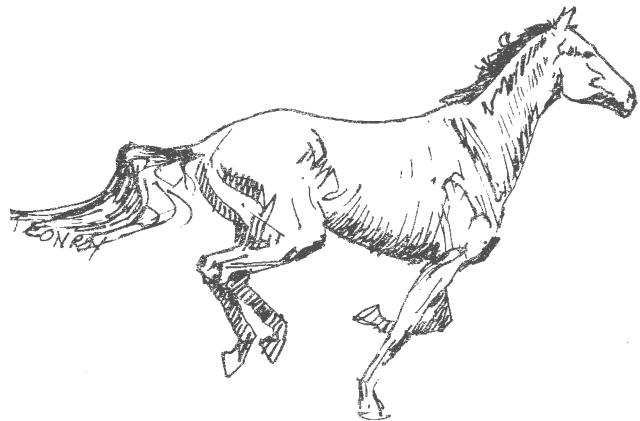
We hope to give you some valuable information from time to time on horsemanship and safety. We hope to find a way of getting those with similar interests together, whether it be in twos or as a whole group. Together, we can become an effective lobbying force to protect our trails, the future of showing, and horsekeeping.

We are looking forward to your input, whether it is questions, stories, or anecdotes about you and your horse. Keep in touch with us.

You can contact the editors at 530-7362 or 482-4128.

One of your new editors did not get the new year off to a good start. Carol's Quarter Horse, ordinarily a very quiet mount, reacted to the cold air and bucked. Carol's hard hat flew off and struck her horse in the head, causing an even more violent reaction. Carol hit the ground head first and nastily broke one of her arms and badly sprained the other. She is recuperating nicely, but it will take a while. This brings us to our first tip -- hard hats are VERY important, but they are next to useless if the chin strap isn't used. Without the strap fastened, they can come off before doing their job of protecting your head in a fall. Carol knows this important bit of information now, but what a hard way to learn it!

-Margaret and Carol



JOHN LASSETER DRESSAGE CLINIC

There are still a few slots open for participation in this spectacular clinic to be held February 4 through 8. The clinic will be held at the Thompson's fine indoor arena at 14170 Skyline Blvd.

For further information or to enroll, contact Pat Walsh (530-0874 - let it ring a long time) or Anita Thompson (635-4830).

If you wish to observe, there is an observation room so that you will be comfortable. If you are only planning to observe, still contact Pat or Anita so that they will know how many to expect.

This is a very fine clinic, and we are fortunate to be able to present it to our members.





An MHA Competitive Trail Ride

The Metropolitan Horsemen's Association sponsors three competitive trail rides each year--the Claud Brandon, the Sidney Chown, and the Charlie Back, named for people who made great contributions in promoting horsemanship and trail riding in the Bay Area. The three rides are scheduled to cover spring, summer, and fall, and when you've attended all three in a year, you really learn to appreciate the changing scenery here in the Bay Area.

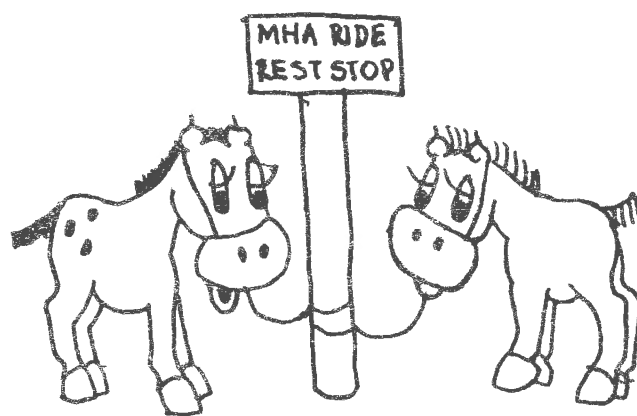
First and foremost, our rides are designed to be pleasure rides. There is no racing against the clock, no vet checks or P&R stops. They are, however, an excellent introduction to competitive trail riding for the novice horse and rider. Ridden at a flat footed walk, the rides take approximately three hours and may cover about 10 miles or so of leisurely trails. While neither horse nor rider need to be conditioned to a peak as one would be for NATRC or an endurance ride, you should be up to some steep trails--uphill and down--some of our local "paths" approach the vertical at times! If you and your horse are sound in wind and limb and reasonably fit, these rides should pose no problems.

What can the rider expect in the way of judging? The rider is judged on horsemanship--not show ring equitation, but a good trail riding seat and a concern for the horse's well being. Lean forward and out of the saddle going uphill, and try to stay with the horse's center of balance both uphill and down. At rest stops, check the feet for rocks, sponge your horse off if he needs it, offer water, loosen the girth for a breather (don't forget to tighten it up again); in short, make your horse comfortable. You are expected to keep up with the group--trotting may or may not be penalized, but sometimes it is unavoidable. A good rule is "never lose sight of the horse in front of you". A rider is penalized for going ahead of the trail master or falling behind the drag rider. Common courtesy is the rule. If you wish to pass a slow moving horse, announce "passing right" or

The horse will be judged on trail manners, and to some extent on his condition. You may expect to find both logs to step over and water to step through, so if your horse has trouble with this type of obstacle, you may wish to work on them at home. Especially this year, the water "obstacles" will be numerous and varied!

The primary function of these rides is to have fun--to get out on our beautiful trails and enjoy the scenery and the company of other riders. We traditionally end up at Sequoia Arena for lunch and a Play Day, where the events can range from informal pleasure classes to the exciting Two-Man/One-Horse Sack Race! The Play Day classes offer as much amusement to the spectators as to the competitors.

MHA's trail rides are an excellent way to meet other members and their horses. There is a team spirit and a sense of camaraderie in trail riding that is often lacking in other competitive events. Even if you don't feel "competitive", come and join us for the sheer fun of it. Trail riding is one of the most enjoyable aspects of horsemanship, as the many members who attend these three events will all agree!



I LIKE THE REST STOP
BEST TOO.

Drawing by Jennifer Sprankle

OFFICERS

Judi Bank Pres. - 531-5449
 Jean Horewitz Vice Pres. - 531-2395
 Jane Raymond Rec. Sec. - 531-6345
 Kathy Dunn Fin. Sec. - 635-3921
 Florence Pennebaker Treas. - 638-6530

DIRECTORS

Sylvester Brooks	Charles Koopman
Theresa Conroy	Donna Koopman
Inez Fort	Helen Latimer
Sue Gillespie	Donald Pennebaker
Erl Hansen	Noelle Pilat
Helmut Hungerland	Sue Plezia
John Ketler	Barbara Raupe
	Pat Walsh

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Seq. Arena Florence Pennebaker-648-6530
 Horse Events. Jean Horewitz-531-2395
 Education Jane Raymond-531-6345
 Trails Sylvester Brooks-482-5571

Metropolitan Horsemen's Association
 P.O. Box 2724
 Oakland, Ca. 94602

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

BULK RATE

U. S. Postage
PAID
 Oakland, Calif.
 Permit No 956

DEADLINE! 10th of each month

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

OAKLAND HORSE TRIALS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

First General Meeting: Thursday Eve.,
 January 24, 1980, 7:00 p.m.
 Conference Room of "A CENTRAL PLACE",
 477 15th Street, Suite 200
 Downtown Oakland

The 1980 Oakland Horse Trials will be
 held September 27 and 28 at Sequoia Arena
 and in Redwood Regional Park.

The 1980 Organizing Committee will
 seek to establish the event as a perman-
 ent "fixture" on the West Coast horse
 show circuit and to market the event to
 untapped, as well as to traditional,
 equestrian sports audiences throughout
 Northern California.

For further information please phone
 (415)834-7897.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH

The Hardy 37 who were at the Sequoia
 Lodge on New Year's Eve had a grand time.
 When the word gets around, we'll need a
 larger place next year. The band was good,
 and nearly everybody danced and watched the
 full moon through the skylight. Chuck and
 Donna Koopman catered, and their food was
 excellent. We are looking forward to this
 being an annual event -- what a nice way
 to spend New Year's Eve.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Office _____

☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

Dues: _____ Amount _____

FAMILY \$20.00 _____

INDIVIDUAL \$15.00 _____

JUNIOR \$10.00 _____

Trail Fund Donation _____

Total Enclosed _____

Husband _____

Wife _____

Junior _____ Birthday _____

Junior _____ Birthday _____

Junior _____ Birthday _____

What activities are you interested in?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combined Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Clinics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English Shows | <input type="checkbox"/> Playdays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Shows | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dressage | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Real Fun (volunteer work) | |

Attach check and mail to:

METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOC.
 P.O. Box 2724 Oakland, Ca. 94602

**JOIN NOW! THIS IS YOUR LAST TRAIL
 BLAZER UNLESS YOU RENEW YOUR
 MHA MEMBERSHIP.**